

Prayer Requests & Announcements

- Dave and Catherine in the Philippines. They are presenting lessons to the Filipino Christians during their stay. They plan to be away about 2 weeks.
- Barbara Riggs, a friend of the Wards from Arkansas, passed away Wednesday. Her funeral is this afternoon.
- Keep April in your prayers.
- Bible class tomorrow night at Chad and Kass' on evangelism.
- The Christians in the Philippines.
- Our monthly business meeting scheduled for today is postponed. We plan to meet the 1st Sunday of March.

For prayer requests, call or text
Chad @ (208) 221-2587 or Ross @ (208) 680-6590

Assignments

Today

Bible Study – Tom Mitchell
Song Leader – Chad Mitchell
Lord's Table – Tom Mitchell
Sermon – Ross Ward

Wednesday

Bible Study – Ross Ward
Song Leader – Chad Mitchell
Invitation – Ross Ward

Next Sunday

Bible Study – Tom Mitchell
Song Leader – Tom Mitchell
Lord's Table – Ross Ward
Sermon – Ross Ward

Next Wednesday

Bible Study – Ross Ward
Song Leader – Chad Mitchell
Invitation – Ross Ward

Blackfoot Church of Christ
370 North Shilling Ave.
Blackfoot, Idaho 83221

Meeting Times:

Sunday Morning Classes 10:00AM
Sunday Morning Worship 11:00AM
Wednesday Evening 7:30PM



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What God Hasn't Said

By Phillip Strong

Some folks seem to take their cues in religion from what God hasn't said. Apparently, almost anything can be a part of a fellowship and church work or worship if "God didn't say not to do it." Let's think about that logic and reason for a moment.

When giving Noah instructions for building an ark through which he and his family could be saved from the coming destruction of those who were unwilling to obey God, the Lord didn't forbid him from using pine, oak, cedar, maple, sycamore, cypress, etc. Instead, God just told Noah what type of wood he could use, and that automatically eliminated the rest, Gen.6:14ff. God was silent on these other kinds of wood because He specified the type of wood He wanted Noah to use. Likewise, when God specified through Moses that priests had to come from the tribe of Levi, Deut.33:8-11, He didn't have to forbid the tribes of Reuben, Simeon, Issachar, Dan, Naphtali, Judah, etc. All the other tribes were necessarily excluded when God specified Levi as the priestly tribe, cf. Heb.7:14. God was silent on these other tribes because He had specified the tribe He wanted to serve as priests.

As priests, Nadab and Abihu were to keep fire burning on the altar of the Lord continuously, Lev.6:12-13; and fire used for other sacrifices and offerings was to be taken from this altar, Lev.16:12. So, they were killed by God when they "offered strange fire before the Lord, which He had not commanded them," Lev.10:1-2. Did God need to say, "Don't use fire from here, or here, or there"? Not at all, when He told the priests from where the fire needed to come, every other place and source was automatically eliminated. God was silent on "other fire" because He had specified the fire He wanted to be used.

Now, let's make a specific application of these things (though the same principles should guide all other applications also!). Most religions of today use instruments of music to praise God in worship. If asked why they choose to worship in this way, the answer is often, "God didn't say not to use it." Can't we see that God didn't tell Noah "not to use cedar," or tell Israel "not to make priests from the tribe of Rueben," or tell Nadab and Abihu "not to use fire from some other source" either? But God does tell us what "instruments" to use to praise Him.

Eph 5:19, "speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord;"

The voice and the heart were the instruments specified- not the violin and harp. The objection usually raised to this is, "But they used instrumental music to praise God in the Old Testament!" They sure did, but please answer this question: "Why did they use instrumental music in the Old Testament to praise God?"

2Chr 29:25 provides the answer, "He stationed the Levites in the house of Lord with cymbals, with harps, and lyres, according to the command of David and of Gad the king's seer, and of Nathan the prophet; for the command was from the Lord through His prophets."

God specified instrumental music for Jews under the Law of Moses in the Old Testament. We are Christians under the Law of Christ in the New Testament. Where is God's specification of instruments of music besides the voice and the heart in the New Testament?

"But weren't the first Christians Jews?" Absolutely, and yet any reputable historian or bible encyclopedia will tell you that mechanical music was not a part of Christian worship until late in the seventh century A.D. when Pope Vitalian decreed it as an acceptable form of worship. Overwhelmingly, instrumental music in worship was rejected by all the major Protestant denominations (and their leaders such as Martin Luther, John Calvin, Charles Spurgeon, and John Wesley) until the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. But more importantly, why did Jewish Christians, who were accustomed to using mechanical instruments to worship God under the Old Testament Law, suddenly abandon the use of them in Christian worship? Again, the answer is simple: "Neither God, Jesus, nor the Holy Spirit (or men inspired by Them) authorized the

use of mechanical instruments in the New Testament for Christian worship." There was no need to say (or write), "Don't use this or that mechanical instrument" because God had specified the voices and hearts of Christians singing praises to Him. There are at least nine N.T. passages that specify singing praises to God, Mt 26:30; Acts 16:25; Rom 15:9; 1Cor 14:15; Eph 5:19; Col 3:16; Heb 2:12 and 13:15; and Jam 5:13. But, though mechanical instruments were readily available, and had been a part of Jewish worship, there is not one N.T. passage that species using one (or several) for Christian worship. Apparently, early Christians understood that the silence of God did not authorize this, or any other practice. Does it really make that much difference? Ask Nadab and Abihu. Please study, reflect, and think on these things carefully.

Nicodemus Came to Jesus

Joe R. Price

"There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. 2 This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him." (John 3:1-2, NKJV)

Nicodemus had heard the teachings of Jesus, and he had apparently seen some of His miracles (or their effects). From this, Nicodemus rightly concluded that Jesus had come from God, and that God was with him. From the context, we are not amiss to conclude that Nicodemus was an early believer (John 2:23). He was a Pharisee, and a ruler of the Jews (John 7:50). This indicates the influence of Jesus' words and deeds was already beginning to reach the upper echelons of Jewish power. Although this night visit implies an element of fear on the part of Nicodemus, it also shows him acting on the conclusion he drew from the words and signs of Jesus. He did not withdraw from Jesus, criticize Him, or obstruct His work. This "teacher of Israel" went directly to Jesus to investigate for himself. We must never allow our place in society, our degree of education, or the authority we hold over others to prevent a humble investigation of Christ and His gospel. Pride would have prevented this night visit. Is pride keeping you from going to Jesus, learning from Him, and following His word? Remember, "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble" (1 Peter 5:5).